

# **Thomas Taggart collection**

## **L541**

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December 08, 2017

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts  
140 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204  
317-232-3671

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Creator</b>	Hubbard, Kin, 1868-1930
<b>Creator</b>	Taggart, Thomas, 1856-1929
<b>Title</b>	Thomas Taggart collection
<b>Date</b>	1859-1958
<b>Extent</b>	18.6 Cubic feet 5 manuscript boxes, 2 medium oversize boxes, 31 custom boxes and 1 oversize folder
<b>Language</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

Thomas Taggart collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

## Biographical Note

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Thomas T. Taggart was born in County Monaghan [Monaghan], Ireland on November 17, 1856 to Thomas and Martha (Kingsbury) Taggart; he was one of five children. They immigrated to Xenia, Ohio in 1861, moved to Garrett, Indiana in 1871 and to Indianapolis, Indiana in 1877. He worked in various railroad restaurants, including the Indianapolis Union Station restaurant. He married Eva D. Bryant on June 16, 1877, with whom he had five children. He was proprietor and part owner of the Dennison Hotel at Pennsylvania and Ohio Streets and was once owner of the Grand Hotel.

He was a member of the board and manager of the French Lick Springs Hotel Company from 1901-1929, chairman from 1924-1929. During that time he enlarged and modernized the hotel including building a spa, convinced Monon Railroad to lay a spur from Chicago, installed electricity, had bottled water from the spring distributed nationally, had a championship golf course designed and built, and gave the Democratic National Committee an unofficial headquarters at the hotel.

His career in politics spanned the years 1886-1924. He was elected auditor of Marion County in 1886 and re-elected in 1890, also serving as city and county Democratic chairman. He served as chairman of the Democratic National Committee from 1892-1924, chairman of the Indiana Democratic State Committee from 1892-1894, district chairman of the 7th Congressional District for 12 years. He was elected as mayor of Indianapolis for 3 terms, 1895-1901. During that time he annexed Brightwood, Haughville, Mt. Jackson and West Indianapolis and adopted the city park plan, turning Garfield Park into a showplace. He was a member of the Democratic National Committee from 1900-1916 (chairman 1904-1908), and was appointed U.S. Senator March 20, 1906, filling Benjamin F. Shively's unexpired term. He was defeated in his bid for election to a term. He was chairman of the board of directors for Fletcher American National Bank, a director of the Indianapolis Light, Heat and Power Company, treasurer of the Indiana Lincoln Union and a member of the George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission.

There is a monument to him in Riverside Park in Indianapolis, Indiana, built during or after his terms as mayor.

He died March 6, 1929 and is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, Indiana.

### Sources:

Fadely, James P. (1994). Taggart, Thomas. In *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. (pp. 1316-7). Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press. ISLI 977.201 M341Ien

"French Lick Resort." Retrieved 2014/08/20. <http://www.frenchlick.com/aboutus/history/flsh>

"Taggart, Thomas". Find a Grave Memorial. Retrieved 2014/08/20. <http://www.findagrave.com>

Taggart, Thomas [K].". 1900 United States Federal Census. Retrieved 2014/08/20. <http://archives.ancestry.com>

"Taggart, Thomas T.". Hidden Gems: Indiana Landmarks. Retrieved 2014/08/20. <http://www.hiddengemsindiana.org/2013/03/thomas-taggart-memorial.html>

"Taggart, Thomas T.". RetroIndy. Retrieved 2014/08/20. <http://www.indystar.com/story/news/history/retroindy/2014/03/06/thomas-taggart/6117977/>

"Taggart, Thomas T.". Who Was Who in America. (1897-1956). Chicago, IL: Marquis. (V. 1, p.1214). Print. ISLI 920 W628AM

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection includes correspondence, newsclippings, photographs, and scrapbooks from Thomas Taggart in Indiana and Washington, D.C. ranging from 1859-1958. Included are items related to Taggart's political career, family, and the French Lick Springs Hotel.

Included within Box 3 and 4 is correspondence and miscellaneous documents created by A.C. Sallee regarding a biography he wrote about Thomas Taggart.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged chronologically.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

### **Custodial History**

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation from the Democratic National Committee on 1932/03/07, Lucy Taggart on 1956/06/07, and ACFTWHS on 1962/08/27.

### **Accruals**

No further additions are expected.

### **Processing Information**

Collection processing completed 2016/12/20 by Lauren Patton. EAD finding aid created 2016/12/20 by Lauren Patton. EAD finding aid updated 2017/11/29 by Lauren Patton.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Democratic Party (Ind.).
- Democratic Party (U.S.).
- French Lick Springs Hotel.

### **Genre(s)**

- Correspondence
- Scrapbooks
- West Baden (Ind.)

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- French Lick (Ind.)

**Personal Name(s)**

- Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923
- Ralston, Samuel M.
- Taggart, Thomas, 1856-1929

**Subject(s)**

- Indiana--Politics and government--19th century
- Indiana--Politics and government--20th century
- Newspaper articles
- West Baden Springs Hotel (West Baden, Ind.)--History

## Series 1: Documents and photographs, 1874-1958

## Collection Inventory

Series 1: Documents and photographs, 1874-1958		Box 1
	Box	Folder
Thomas Taggart naturalization document, correspondence, French Lick Springs Company document, 1874-1899	1	1
Correspondence, contracts, French Lick Springs Company documents, 1899-1901	1	2
Correspondence, receipts, business documents, and clippings, 1902-1907	1	3
Correspondence, clippings, and articles, 1911-1914	1	4
"The Ralstons to the Taggarts" bound volume, 1913	1	5
Correspondence and clippings, 1915-1916 April	1	6
Correspondence and clippings, 1916 May-June	1	7
Correspondence and clippings, 1916 July	1	8
Correspondence and clippings, 1916 August	1	9
Correspondence and clippings, 1916 September-December	1	10



## Series 1: Documents and photographs, 1874-1958

"A book for Americans" bound volume, 1916	2	1
"Notable Democrats" bound volume, 1916	2	2
Correspondence, clippings, and political documents, 1917-1920	2	3
Correspondence, clippings, and Warren G. Harding and Samuel M. Ralston material, 1921-1924	2	4
"The world's work" bound volume, 1924 January	2	5
Democratic National Convention clippings, 1924	2	6
Correspondence, 1925-1927	2	7
Correspondence and clippings, 1928	2	8
Correspondence, including A.C. Sallee material regarding Thomas Taggart biography, 1929	2	9
"Activities", Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, 1929	2	10
George Rogers Clark Memorial Commission invitation, 1929	2	11
Thomas D. Taggart correspondence, including Kin Hubbard letter and envelope, 1930-1937	2	12
"1931 Conference of Governors" bound volume, 1931	3	1

Series 1: Documents and photographs, 1874-1958

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Keeneland Association certificate, 1936	3	2
Thomas D. Taggart correspondence, A.C. Sallee correspondence and clippings, 1938-1950	3	3
Correspondence, undated	3	4
Notebook, undated	3	5
Address book, undated	3	6
Address book, undated	3	7
"Sunshine seas and romance lands" bound volume, undated	3	8
Miscellaneous items, undated	3	9
Typescripts, undated	3	10
Newsclippings, undated	3	11
Newsclippings about dogs, undated	3	12
Charles Sallee original notes, undated	4	1
Charles Sallee original notes, undated	4	2

Series 1: Documents and photographs, 1874-1958

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Charles Sallee original notes, undated	4	3
Thomas Taggart biography by Charles Sallee, undated	4	4
Thomas Taggart biography by Charles Sallee, undated	4	5
Thomas Taggart biography by Charles Sallee, undated	4	6
Thomas Taggart biography by Charles Sallee, undated	4	7
Photograph album, undated	5	1
Photographs, undated	5	2
Photographs, circa 1928-1936	5	3
Photographs, circa 1916-1942	5	4
Photographs, undated	5	5
Photographs, undated	5	6
Photographs, undated	5	7
U.S. Senate pen and envelope, circa 1916	5	8
Murat ribbon, circa 1882-1929	5	9

Series 1: Documents and photographs, 1874-1958

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Thomas Taggart Riverside Park memorial coin, circa 1935	5	10
Democratic National Emblem card and samples, 1920	5	11
Photographs and clippings from Eva D. Bryant scrapbook, 1910-1912	5	12
Certificates, 1899-1939	6	1
Oversize photographs, circa 1913-1936	6	2
Miscellaneous oversize, undated	6	3
Newsclippings, circa 1897-1913	6	4
Newsclippings, circa 1903-1949	6	5
Newsclippings, circa 1904-1929	6	6
Newsclippings, circa 1904-1958	6	7
Newsclippings, circa 1912-1929	7	1
Newsclippings, circa 1913-1916	7	2
Newsclippings, circa 1916-1935	7	3
Newsclippings, circa 1920-1925	7	4

## Series 2: Volumes, 1859-1936

Newsclippings, circa 1928-1929	7	5
Newsclippings, circa 1929-1948	7	6
Newsclippings and other documents from E.D. Bryant scrapbook, 1859-1906	7	7
		<b>Folder</b>
Oversize maps and photographs, circa 1901-1950		OBG001

## Series 2: Volumes, 1859-1936

		<b>Box</b>
Eva D. Bryant scrapbook, 1859-1906		8
French Lick Springs Company minutes, 1887-1901		9
Scrapbook, 1895 August-1896 September		10
Scrapbook, 1897 September		11
Scrapbook, 1897 September-October		12
Scrapbook, 1897 October-1899 June		13
French Lick Springs Hotel register, 1898 December		14

**Series 2: Volumes, 1859-1936**

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Florence Taggart and political scrapbook, 1899 January-July	15
Scrapbook, 1899 July-October	16
Scrapbook, 1899 October-1900 July	17
Scrapbook, 1900 July-August	18
Scrapbooks, 1900 October-1901 April	19
Scrapbooks, 1901 May-August	20
Scrapbook, 1903 September-1904 January	21
Scrapbook, 1903-1904	22
Taggart campaign, 1904	23
Taggart congressional record, 1906-1907	24
French Lick Springs Hotel register, 1908 May-1909 February	25
Scrapbook, 1910 April-May	26
Eva D. Bryant scrapbook, 1912	27
French Lick Springs Hotel scrapbook, 1912-1913	28

**Series 2: Volumes, 1859-1936**

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Scrapbook, 1912 January-1914 September	29
Bell and Taggart trial scrapbook, 1915 June-October	30
Bell and Taggart trial scrapbook, 1915 June-July	31
Scrapbook, 1915 September-October	32
Scrapbook, 1916	33
Scrapbook, 1920	34
Taggart's death scrapbook, pt. 1, 1929	35
Taggart's death scrapbook pt. 2, 1929	36
Taggart's death scrapbook, pt. 3, 1929	37
"The Democratic Book" volume, 1936	38